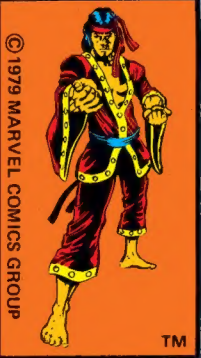


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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU



THE BULL
AND THE
DRAGON!

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. Since then, I have learned that my father is Dr. Fu Manchu, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*.

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

WARRIORS OF THE GOLDEN DAWN

PART
2

THE BULL AND THE DRAGON

"RECENT DAYS HAVE SEEN ME TOO...
MECHANICAL.

NOTHING,
CHINAMAN.

"RESOLVED TO DO WHAT I MUST
WITHOUT THOUGHT OR CON-
SCIENCE OR SENSITIVITY, I HAVE
MOVED LIKE A MACHINE, EVER
READY TO PERFORM BUT INCAP-
ABLE OF JUDGING MY OWN
PERFORMANCE.

"IT IS, I THINK, A DEVICE OF PSYCHIC DEFENSE. OFTEN, ACTIONS MUST
BE TAKEN FOR THEIR OWN SAKE. BUT HERE IN SOUTH AMERICA--WHERE WE
SEARCH FOR FU MANCHU, MY FATHER--AMIDST SO MUCH LIFE, MY AWARENESS
RETURNS. SPIRIT MERGES WITH BODY, OLD LOVERS AGAIN UNITED.

DOUG MOENCH
WRITER

MIKE ZECK
PENCILER

GENE DAY
INKER

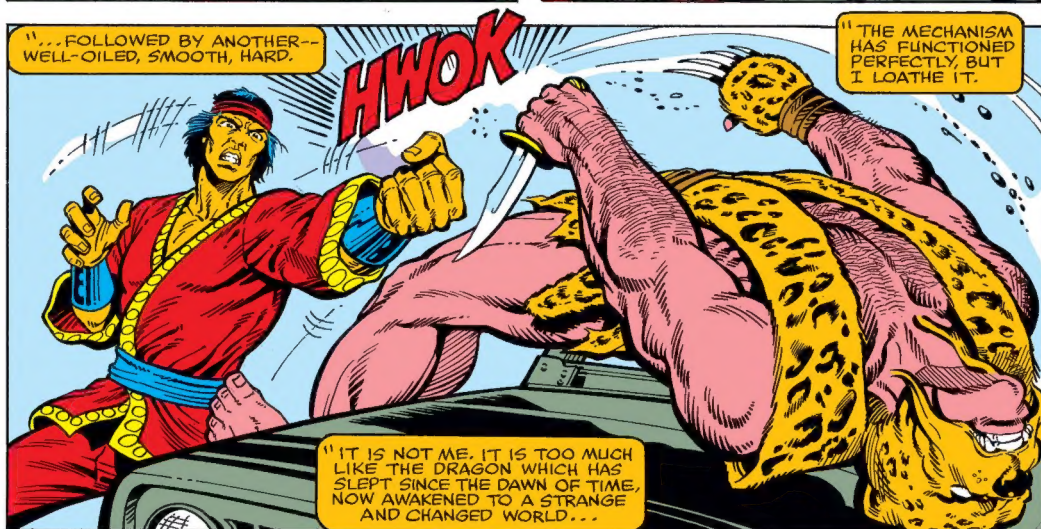
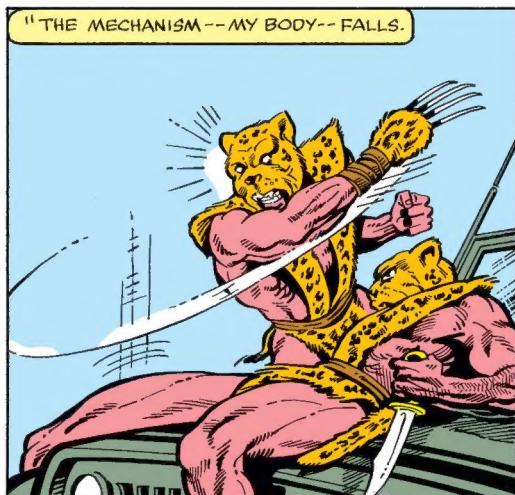
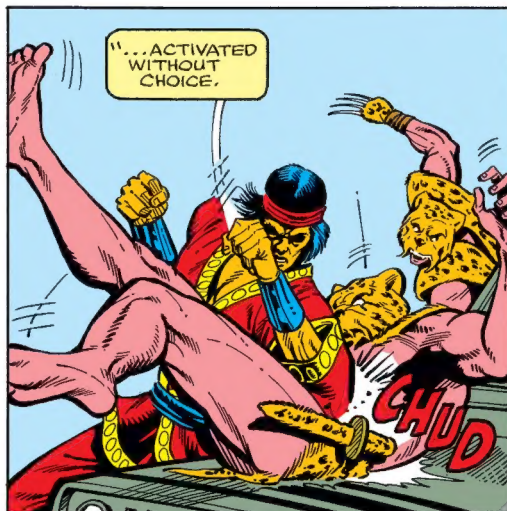
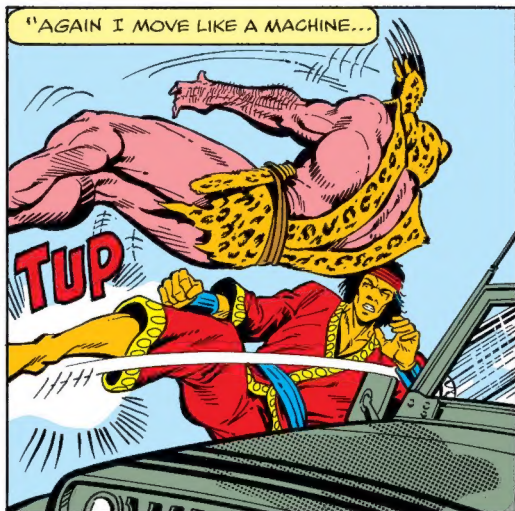
JOE ROSEN
LETTERER

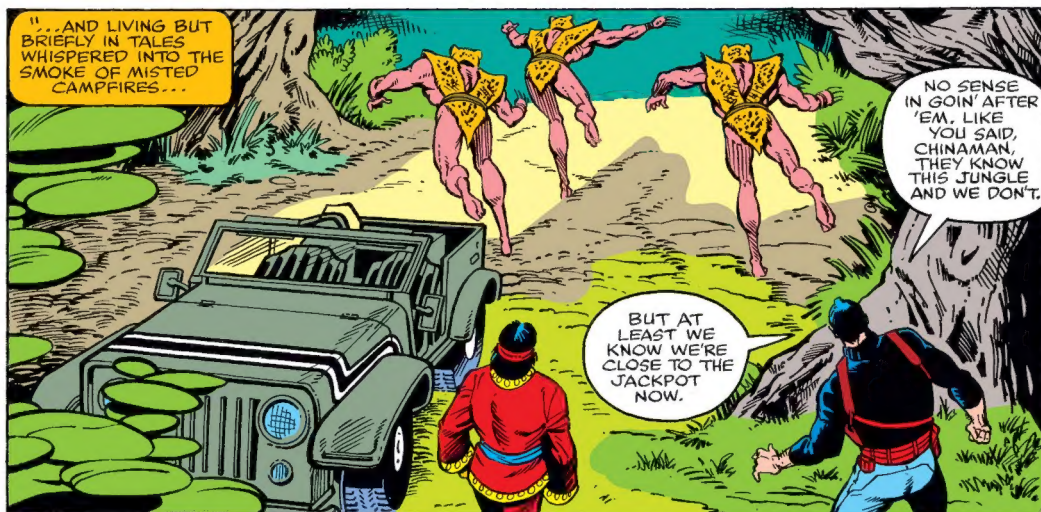
G. ROUSSOS
COLORIST

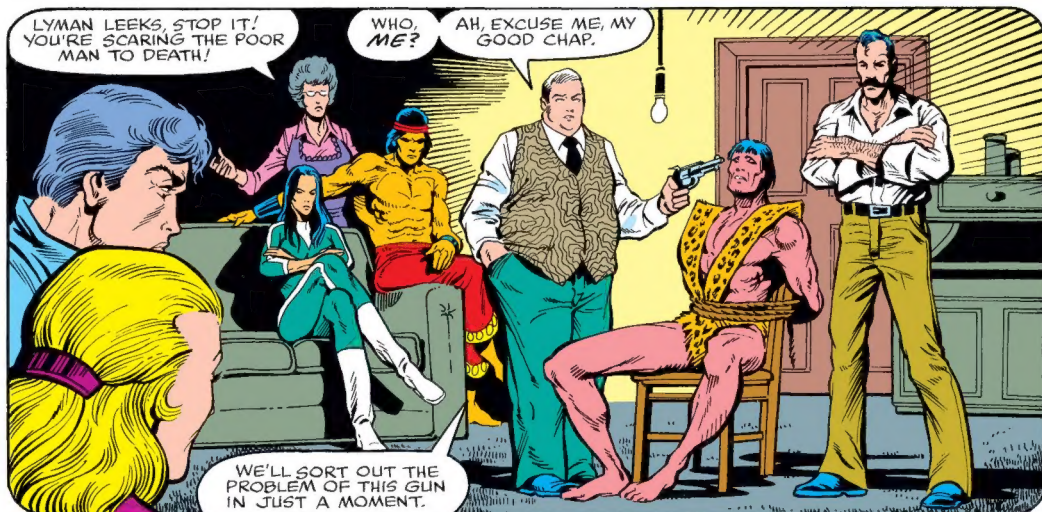
R. STERN
EDITOR

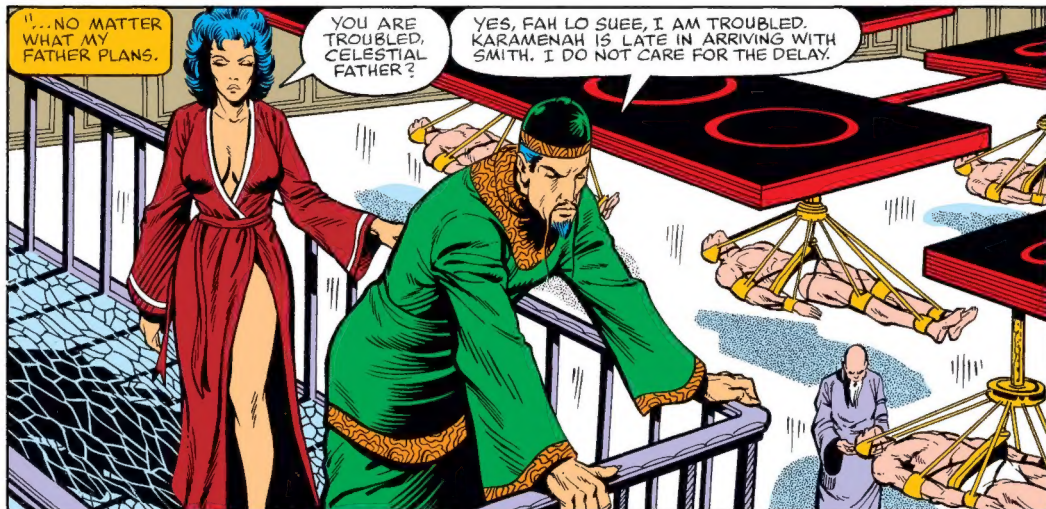
J. SHOOTER
ED-IN-CHIEF







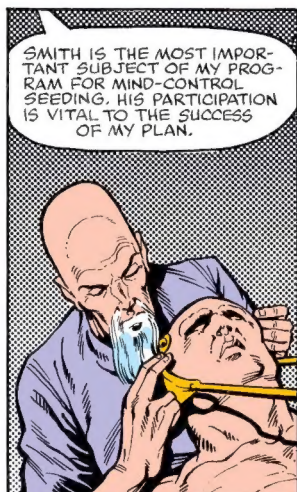




"...NO MATTER WHAT MY FATHER PLANS.

YOU ARE TROUBLED, CELESTIAL FATHER?

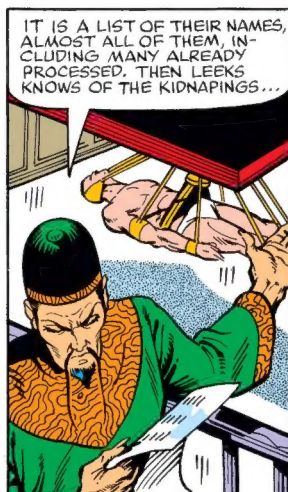
YES, FAH LO SUEE, I AM TROUBLED. KARAMENAH IS LATE IN ARRIVING WITH SMITH. I DO NOT CARE FOR THE DELAY.



SMITH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT OF MY PROGRAM FOR MIND-CONTROL SEEDING. HIS PARTICIPATION IS VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF MY PLAN.



IF KARAMENAH FAILS, I WILL GET SMITH FOR YOU. BUT NOW, SOME *GOOD* NEWS-- THE INFORMATION PACKET COMPILED BY LYMAN LEEKS, WITH THE AID OF ZARAN, I INTERCEPTED IT BEFORE MI-6 OR YOUR LEOPARD-CULTISTS COULD GET IT.



IT IS A LIST OF THEIR NAMES, ALMOST ALL OF THEM, INCLUDING MANY ALREADY PROCESSED. THEN LEEKS KNOWS OF THE KIDNAPINGS...



AND WHAT OF SHANG-CHI? DID *HE* SEE THIS LIST?

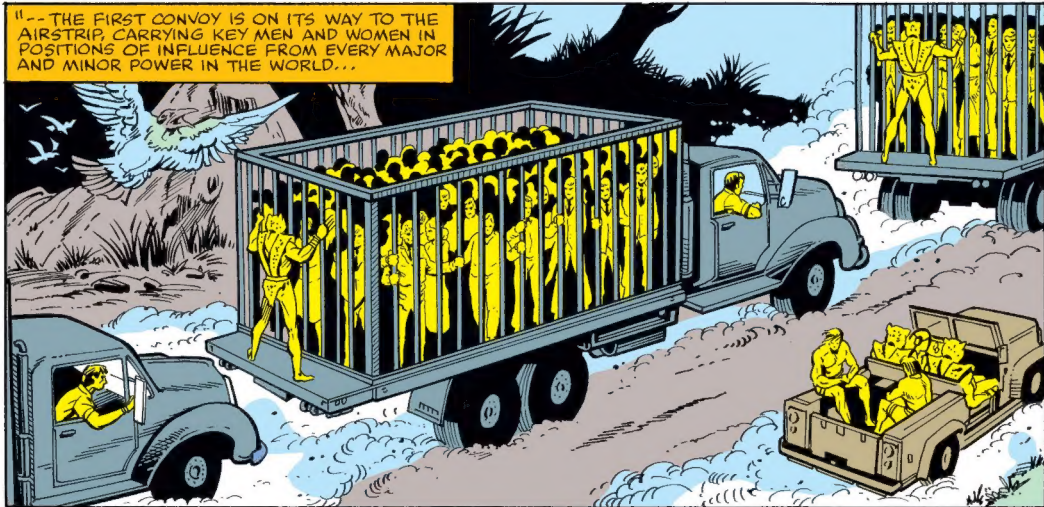
NO, CELESTIAL FATHER... AND MAY I ASK ABOUT MY BROTHER SHANG-CHI? WILL YOU AGAIN GRANT HIS LIFE... OR HAS THE TIME COME, FINALLY, FOR HIS DEATH?



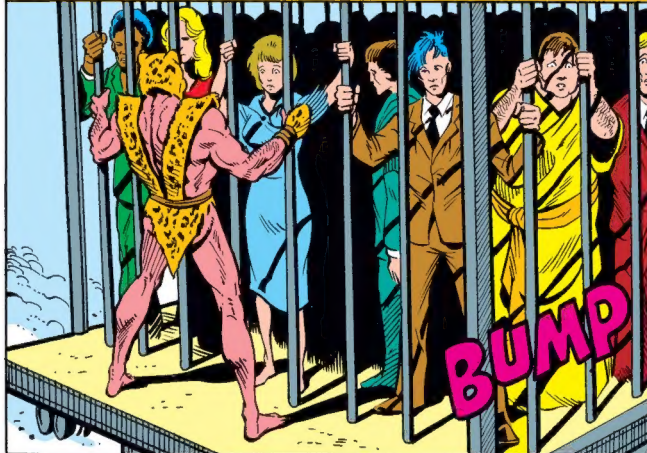
LET US NOT SPEAK OF LIFE AND DEATH, DAUGHTER. THEY ARE ISSUES, NOW, TOO SMALL FOR CONCERN. THE WORLD, AND THE WORLD ALONE, MUST PREOCCUPY OUR THOUGHTS AND DREAMS AND ACTIONS.

EVEN NOW--

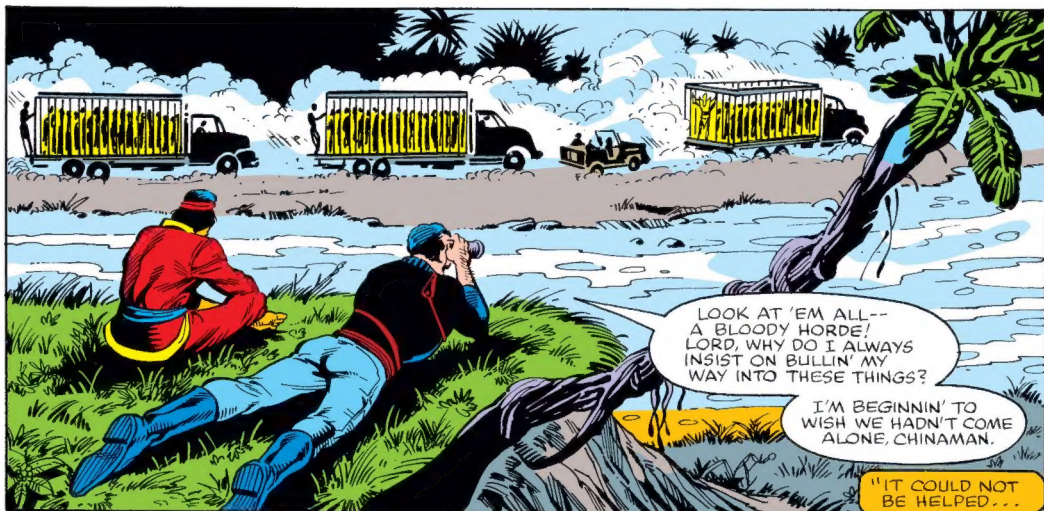
"--THE FIRST CONVOY IS ON ITS WAY TO THE AIRSTRIP, CARRYING KEY MEN AND WOMEN IN POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE FROM EVERY MAJOR AND MINOR POWER IN THE WORLD..."



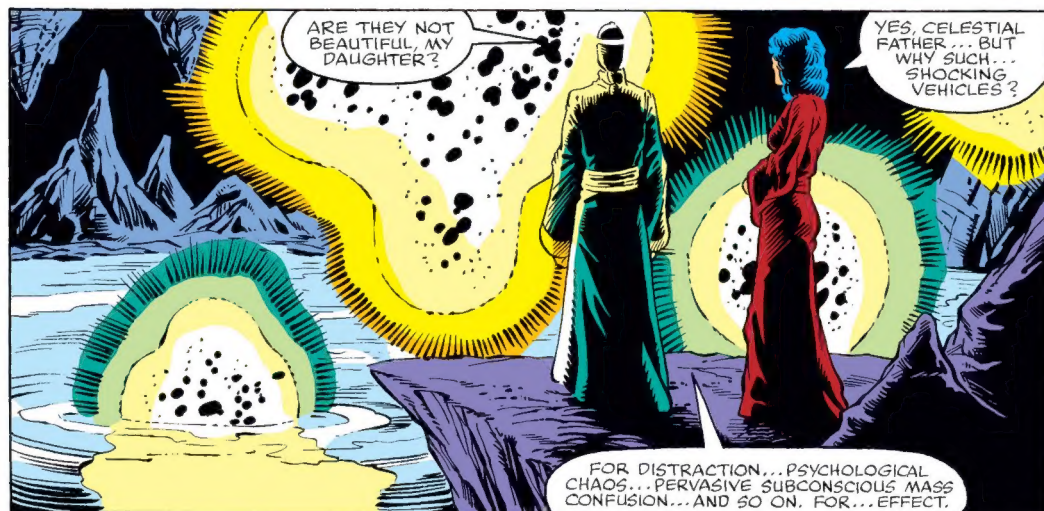
"NOW ALTERED, THEY ARE THE FIRST SEEDS SOON TO BE PLANTED --



"--AND EVENTUALLY TO SPROUT AS MIND-CONTROLLED AGENTS FOR MY DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE ENTIRE GLOBE."







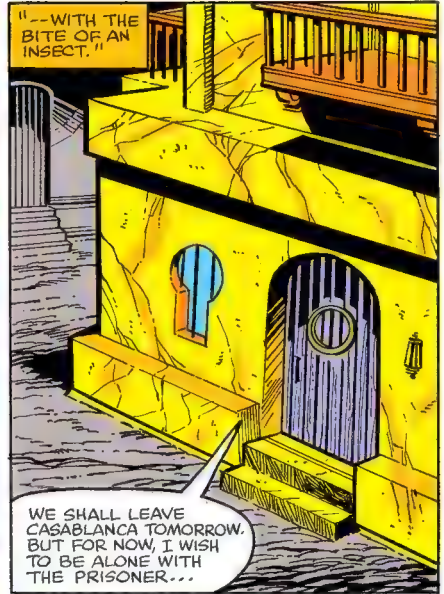


AND FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES, AS WELL, ONE OF THEM SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT KARAMEHAH WITH SMITH BY NOW.

SMITH, YOU ARE STILL OBSESSED WITH SMITH.

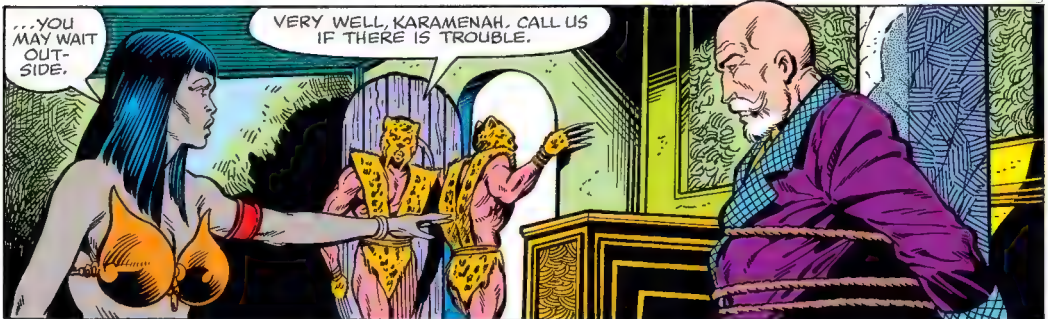


I SHALL ALWAYS BE OBSESSED WITH SMITH... AS A GIANT IS OBSESSED --



"--WITH THE BITE OF AN INSECT."

WE SHALL LEAVE CASABLANCA TOMORROW. BUT FOR NOW, I WISH TO BE ALONE WITH THE PRISONER...



...YOU MAY WAIT OUTSIDE.

VERY WELL, KARAMEHAH. CALL US IF THERE IS TROUBLE.



NOW WHAT THE DEVIL IS GOING ON, KARAMEHAH? WHY WAS I KIDNAPED? ARE YOU NOW SERVING FU MANCHU?

HE *THINKS* SO, BUT I AM NOT. I HAD TO CARRY OUT YOUR KIDNAPING, SIR DENIS-- IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD ALERT YOU.



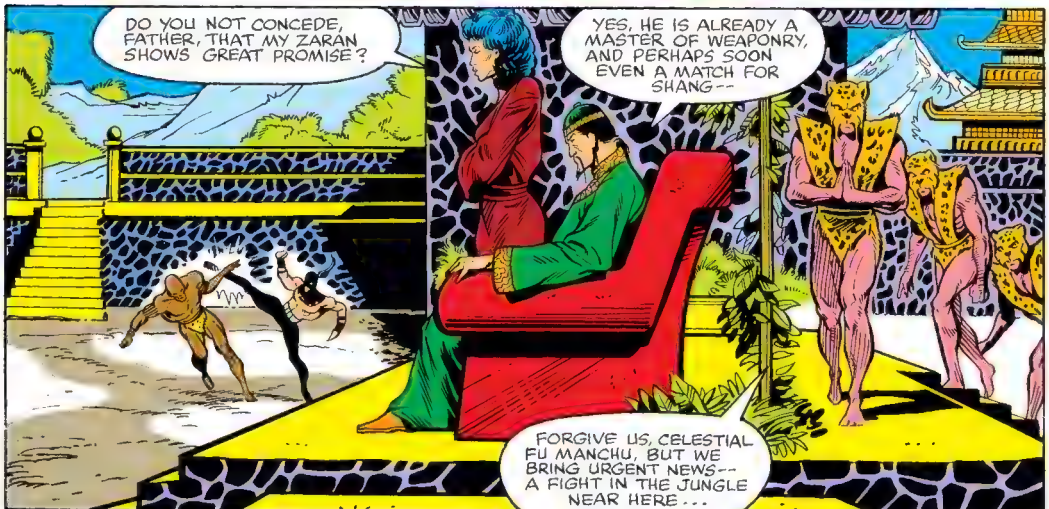
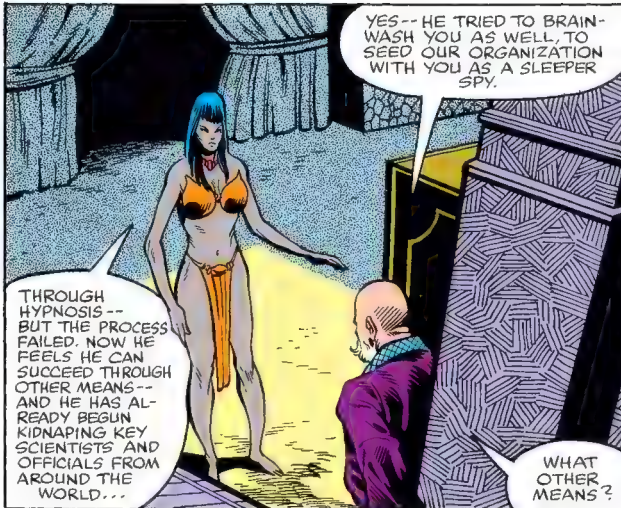
ALERT ME TO WHAT?

HIS NEW PLAN. I'VE DELAYED OUR DEPARTURE FROM MOROCCO AND CONTACTED CLIVE RESTON. WE CAN ONLY HOPE HE ARRIVES IN TIME.

BUT WHAT PLAN? WHAT ON EARTH IS FU MANCHU UP TO?



THE SAME PLAN HE TRIED TO ENACT IN 1933, BUT FAILED. DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU AND PETRIE AND LEEKS RESCUED ME, WHEN FU MANCHU PLANNED TO KIDNAP THE HEADS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND BRAINWASH THEM?





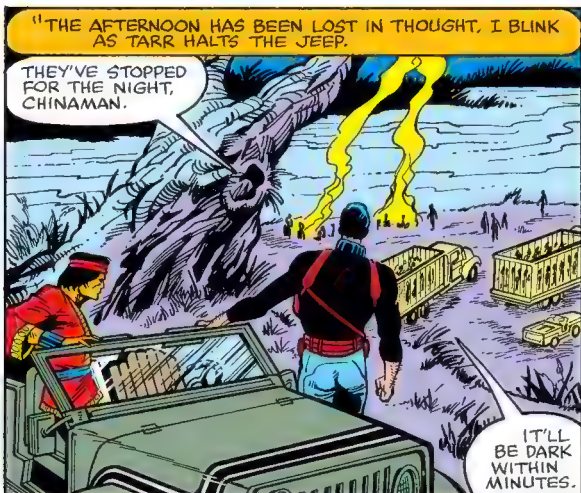
THEY WERE TWO FOREIGNERS, ONE LARGE WHITE, THE OTHER SMALLER-- BUT MORE SKILLED, AND MUCH LIKE YOU.

SHANG-CHI AND SMITH'S TOAD, BLACK JACK TARR... HERE ALREADY.

HMMM.



ONLY TWO, BUT STILL... IF ONE IS SHANG-CHI, THEY MAY YET DISCOVER THE CONVOY... AND THEN PERHAPS EVEN THIS FORTRESS... IF THEY ARE NOT STOPPED BY THE CONVOY.



"THE AFTERNOON HAS BEEN LOST IN THOUGHT, I BLINK AS TARR HALTS THE JEEP.

THEY'VE STOPPED FOR THE NIGHT, CHINAMAN.

IT'LL BE DARK WITHIN MINUTES.



NOW'S THE TIME TO TRY SOMETHIN'-- NOW OR NEVER... SNEAK DOWN AND TRY TO CAPTURE ONE OF 'EM, MAKE HIM TALK.

YES...



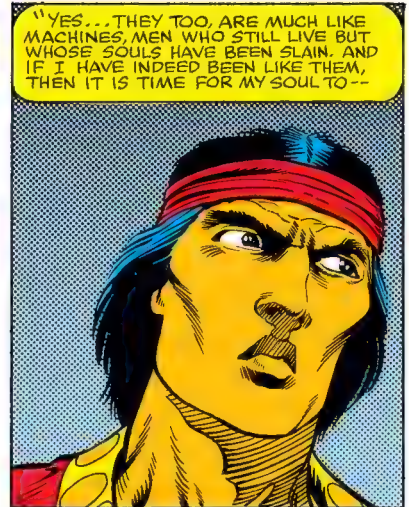
"...BUT BY OTHER MEANS.

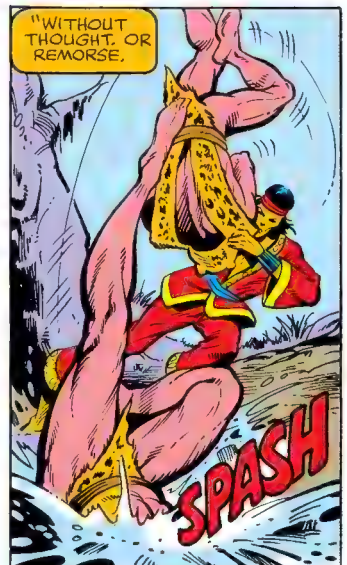
WE'LL STICK CLOSE TO THE TRUCKS, IN THE SHADOWS.

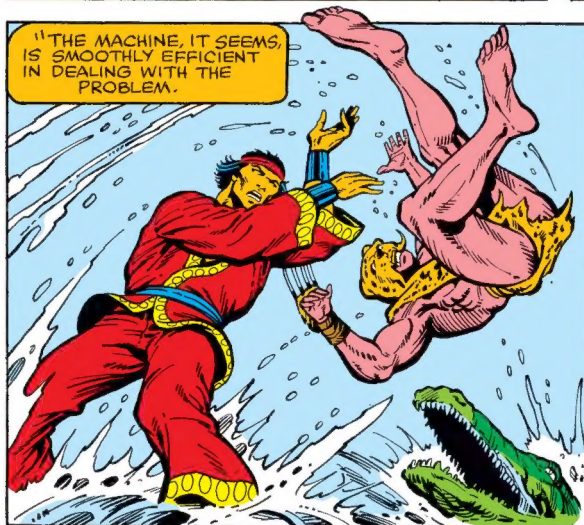
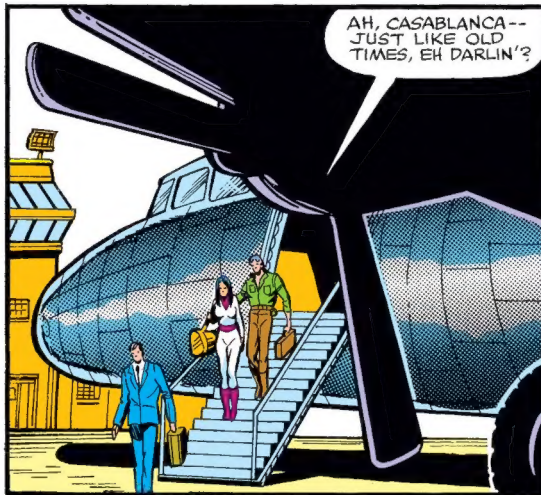
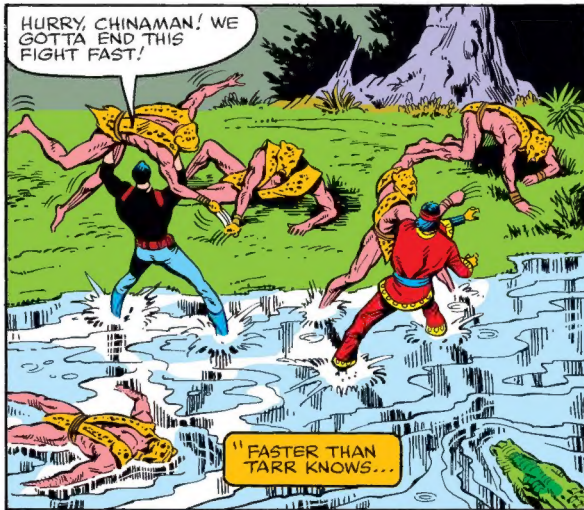


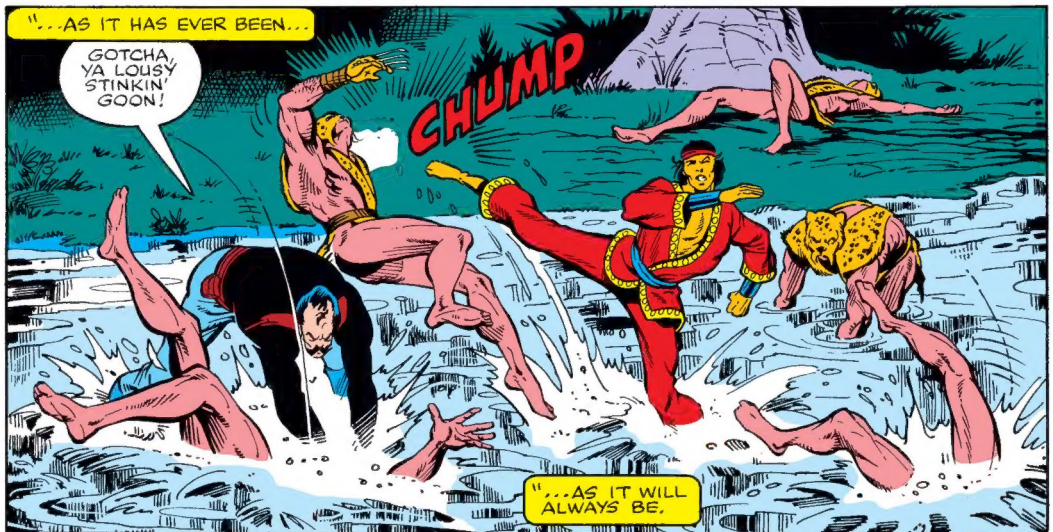
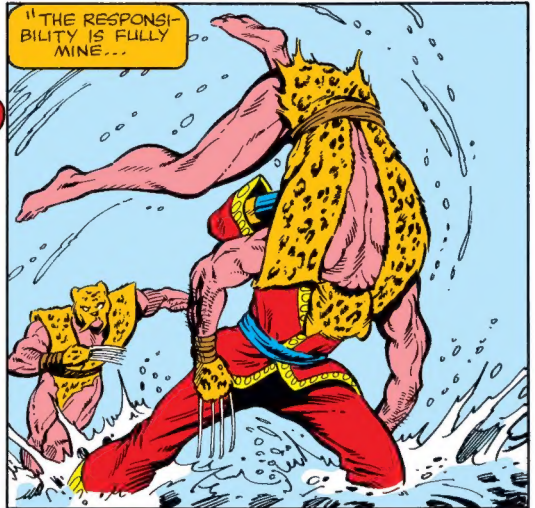
WHAT THE DEVIL--?! WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE ANYWAY?

ANSWER ME, BLAST IT!











"IT ENDS. THE LEOPARD-CULTISTS ARE STILL... BUT THE WATERS ARE NOT."

GATORS!

NO, YOU WILL GO THE OTHER WAY-- **ACROSS** THE RIVER... IF YOU CAN.



OUT OF THE WATER, TARR-- BUT SLOWLY. THEY SCENT THE BLOOD AND ANY SUDDEN MOVEMENT WILL CAUSE THEM TO STRIKE. TURN SLOWLY FOR THE BANK...

"THEN...MY ONE ACT OF CONSCIENCE WAS A MOVE OF DEFEAT IN A GAME SUCH AS THIS."



"I SHOULD HAVE KILLED THE MAN, OR AT LEAST SILENCED HIM."

"SOMETIMES IT IS BETTER TO ACT AS A MACHINE, WITHOUT THOUGHT OR CONSCIENCE."

"FOR, DRAGONS DIE ... BUT MACHINES DO NOT BLEED."

NEXT SPOTLIGHTING CLIVE RESTON AND LEIKO WU--
THE RAM AND THE DOVE!

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York, 10022

ROGER STERN
EDITOR
JIM SALICRUP
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Since we consumed an incredible amount of space with our own long-winded comments last time, we're gonna be still and try to squeeze in three long letters this time...

Dear Doug and Mike:

It was only after reading MASTER OF KUNG FU #76 for perhaps the third time that I finally came to the realization that this is a damn good book!

When you go from reading a story about Dr. Strange turning into a werewolf to a tale of love, betrayal, and shattered idealism, you don't at first really grasp the full meaning and significance. Then you read it again, perhaps to concentrate more on the art this time, and then you might read it another time, just because it happens to complement one of your favorite collections.

But now -- when a simple comicbook that costs only 40¢ and is printed on some of the cheapest paper available can offer so much insight and become such an object of introspection -- I am stunned. This mood has been building since an excellent tale called "Nightsuits," and I find it a very welcome change from brick-smashing and head-crunching or killing for microdot puzzles. The dark and ominous art highlighted the story perfectly, and I now believe I would almost rather see Mike Zeck on this book than Paul Gulacy. (Still...)

The story flowed along extremely well; even the "obligatory" fight scene seemed to fit as a necessary component. (The only complaint I have concerns the Black Jack Tarr interludes. They would have been much better presented in a succeeding issue.) The old man's comments about the world's only harmony being a continual coexistence with discord were priceless. Another fine touch was Shang-Chi's confusion about being a pacifist who is constantly forced to fight. It is the first time he's ever shown so much introspection -- far different from "...and the brittle sounds of violence...etc." And so pathetic that the old man betrayed Shang-Chi as soon as he learned his name; it reminded me of the way Chi tried to relate to his father, Fu Manchu, when they have such radically different interpretations of life. Then, later, Shang's remark: "...then let them enjoy this," is a clear sign of bitter cynicism. He is losing trust in nearly everyone; even those who have never before met him now seem to inevitably turn against him. Yet he does not want to grow hard and cruel; he still feels guilt when tossing the old man's money back in his face. His talk with Leiko is one of the most beautiful exchanges I've ever read, and it's a shame that the phone call at the end made it seem somewhat anticlimactic. Yet, even so, it shows that there can never be any kind of harmony in the discordant world of today.

Even if you two can never again reach the level of excellence here in "Smoke, Beads, and Blood" -- even if MOKF is cancelled with the next issue -- I will always regard this as one of the greatest accomplishments ever created in the silly little comicbook world. This book has come a long way since the early days of "Kill him! Destroy the red-garbed intruder!"

Michael Heisler
118 Lexington Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Gentlemen,

What is it about this mag that so captures me? What enralls, clutches, leads me from issue to issue without a breath of hesitation? What holds me more than the merely habitual nature of a fan? What lingers past the consideration of kung fu as a fad?

Because it lives! I've just reread MOKF #77 for the God-only-knows how manyth time and have come to the haughty but definite conclusion that this title has outgrown the label of "comicbook" into something more akin to... I don't know... a continuing novel, I suppose. There is realism. There is emotion. There is life!

Other mags, like the splendid X-MEN, keep me on the edge of my seat impatiently awaiting the next installment -- closer to the serials of bygone days. But MOKF is a more serene wait -- knowing it will be here in due time, and when it arrives it will be sublime. I buy it as a matter of course rather than snatching it as a matter of need. Credit goes first and foremost to Douglas Moench, whom I rank not with the best comicbook writers, but with the best writers around, period. I enjoy reading a new MOKF as much as a new Ellison story in PLAYBOY. Thanks, Rog and Jim, for giving Doug the freedom he needs to obtain MOKF's uniqueness -- the flow, the life.

And even though MOKF has gone through a battery of artists, including some of the very best, it has never suffered from lack of quality -- no schlock one-shot fill-ins. And now, with #s76 and 77, Zeck and Day have refined a style with which I am more and more pleased. Gene has taken Mike's soft pencils one step further.

I don't know what to say about the new plotline, except to wonder: Will you ever come up with an idea that DOESN'T work? I doubt it. Thank you, Doug, for consistently showing a man who chooses heart over duty, life over death, serenity over violence. Do not let popular demand change your style. Live.

Kevin J. Dooley
801 S. Gramercy Dr. #104
Los Angeles, CA 90005

Dear Sirs:

MOKF #78 depicted to a much higher degree than usual Shang-Chi's deep love for Leiko; it was matched in this respect only by MOKF #71. What I don't understand, though, is why Shang left Leiko in the inn. He was aware she was alive, yet he couldn't be sure she'd remain so.

I'll give you one thing, however: Shang-Chi was no less than hell-bent on paying Zaran back and retrieving that tape. Chi is at his best when he is angry, and his fighting skills were magnificently displayed in the five-page battle with Zaran. The "SHANG" sound effect was well placed in the context of the "Shang" dialogue, and quite effective.

So, the "mysterious visitor" was none other than Fah Lo Suee. If my hunch is correct, we'll soon be seeing Fu Manchu's return as well. We could then enjoy another three-way war epic. I certainly hope so.

William Stewart
7005 Monroe Court
Charlottesville, VA 22901

As you've no doubt noticed by now, William, your hope is our command. Fu Manchu has returned, quietly, moodily thus far -- but soon with a vengeance. Till then... be good.

IN AMAZING FANTASY #15 WE SAW:

THE BIRTH OF A SUPER HERO CLASSIC!

NOW MARVEL COMICS
PROUDLY PRESENTS

SPIDER-MAN
#200!

THE LEGEND CONTINUES!

